

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3, 14, 15, 17, 28 and 48 are pending in this application. Independent claims 1, 15 and 48 are amended without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraphs 0023-0024 of the Specification as originally filed.

No new subject matter has been added as a result of the amended claims.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112 HAVE BEEN OVERCOME

Claims 1, 3, 14, 15, 17, 28 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These claims have been amended in this response, thereby obviating this rejection.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 HAVE BEEN OVERCOME

Claims 1, 3, 14, 15, 17, 28 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,093,512 to Fleischer (hereinafter merely "Fleischer").

Independent claim 1 as currently amended recites:

"A papermaking fabric multilayer monofilament, said multilayer monofilament having a core and a sheath comprising a plurality of respective layers visibly distinguishable from one another and the core by their contrasting color, or reflectivity for indicating a level of wear of a papermaking fabric comprised thereof." (Emphasis added)

Fleischer relates to papermakers' belt comprising resin coated load bearing yarns.

Fleischer, specifically discloses that the core yarns of these belts may be coated without applying a wrapping or cover material, or may be coated prior to being wrapped by a cover material, or a resin coating may be applied after the core yarn has been wrapped by a cover material.

Fleischer, col. 4, lines 25-30. As an example, Fleischer depicts a portion of the belt in Figs. 6 and 7, which comprise load bearing yarns 14 comprising multifilament core yarns 16 which have been coated with a resin 18. As a further example, Fleischer depicts a portion of the belt in Figs. 8 and 9, which comprise load bearing yarns 20 comprising multifilament core yarns 22, wrapping or cover material 24 and resin coating 26. *Id.*, col. 4, lines 31-36. Therefore, Fleischer does not teach or suggest a multilayer monofilament having a core and a sheath comprising a plurality of respective layers visibly distinguishable from one another and the core by their contrasting color, or reflectivity for indicating a level of wear of a papermaking fabric comprised thereof, as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentably distinguished over the relied upon portions of Fleischer and therefore should be allowed. Since independent claims 15 and 48 are similar or somewhat similar in scope to claim 1, they too are allowable.

Claims 1-4, 6, 14 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,033,779 to Andrews (hereinafter merely "Andrews").

As to Andrews, it relates to a composite yarn formed of melt-fusible thermoplastic fibers for use in a protective glove or mitten. There is no teaching or suggestion in Andrews for using a multilayer filament in a papermaking fabric, as recited in the instant claims. Andrews lacks the

very motivation to do so because the objective of Andrews is to produce end products such as cut-resistant apparel for environments where workers are exposed to possibly contaminated products or where core materials in the yarn can damage the end product of manufacture.

Additionally, Andrews does not teach or suggest a multilayer monofilament having a core and a sheath comprising a plurality of respective layers visibly distinguishable from one another and the core by their contrasting color, or reflectivity for indicating a level of wear of a papermaking fabric comprised thereof, as recited in independent claim 1. Andrews, clearly, is a multilayer multifilament structure that has a core surrounded by a plurality of other filament yarns.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentably distinguished over the relied upon portions of Andrews and therefore should be allowed. Since independent claims 15 and 48 are similar or somewhat similar in scope to claim 1, they too are allowable.

IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 HAVE BEEN OVERCOME

Claims 1-4, 6, 14 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,685,014 to Dapsalmon in view of anyone of U.S. Patent No. 3,800,019 to Parsey or U.S. Patent No. 6,653,943 to Lamb and further in view of anyone of U.S. Patent no. 4,651,514 to Collett, U.S. Patent No. 5,113,532 to Sutton, or Andrews.

Applicants submit that none of the above cited references teach or suggest the above discussed features of claim 1. Specifically, none of the cited references, considered either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a multilayer monofilament having a core and a sheath comprising a plurality of respective layers visibly distinguishable from one another and the core

by their contrasting color, or reflectivity for indicating a level of wear of a papermaking fabric comprised thereof, as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1, 15 and 48 patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of the cited references and are therefore allowable. Further, claims 3, 14, 17 and 28 that depend from either claim 1 or claim 15, are allowable as well.

Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art and an early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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